

February 6, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Via Electronic Filing

Re: Ex Parte Communication, WT Docket No. 10-4

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On February 2, 2012, Paul Roberts and Liz Hill of American Tower, Larry Fischer of TE Connectivity, Brian Domingo of Commscope, Ray Rothermel and Kyle Entz of Sprint, George A. Vinyard of ExteNet Systems, Inc., and Jonathan Campbell and the undersigned of PCIA—The Wireless Infrastructure Association and The DAS Forum, a membership section of PCIA¹ ("Parties") met with Roger Noel, Joyce Jones, Erin Griffith, Thomas Derenge and Becky Schwartz of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Ira Keltz of the Office of Engineering and Technology.

The Parties urged the Commission to take steps to ensure that distributed antenna system ("DAS") providers are able to continue to utilize signal boosters through effective coordination with licensees. The Parties discussed how enterprise boosters like those installed in a DAS differ from "off-the-shelf" boosters available to consumers. The differences discussed include remote monitoring and control of the booster functions (specifically remote turn-off and turn-on available to the carrier or the carrier's designate(s) via a graphical user interface ("GUI")), amplifier integration, inclusion of the more stringent ETSI engineering specifications², differences in gain, better intermodulation performance, greater carrier control of signal output and less signal degradation, and overall better performance to support a larger number of users and greater throughput.

The Parties also discussed integration of DAS boosters into a carrier's network. As is the case with a DAS Network as a whole, a booster used as the RF source for a DAS network comprises a network element that is known to the carrier and treated as part of its larger network. Such boosters are network aware, alarmed, and geographically tied to particular carrier base stations. A consumer booster differs from an enterprise booster because it is only perceived by the Carrier as another mobile

¹ PCIA is a non-profit, national trade association representing the wireless infrastructure industry. PCIA's members develop, own, manage, and operate over 150,000 towers, rooftop wireless sites, and other facilities for the provision of all types of wireless services. PCIA seeks to facilitate the widespread deployment of communications networks across the country, consistent with the mandate of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The DAS Forum, a membership section of PCIA, is dedicated to the development of DAS and small cell solutions as elements of the nation's wireless infrastructure. The DAS Forum membership includes virtually every major neutral host outdoor and indoor DAS provider, as well as manufacturers of equipment used in the wireless service sectors, and several commercial mobile radio service carriers currently deploying DAS as part of their networks.

² Consumer boosters often rely on the less stringent FCC repeater specifications.

device on the carrier's network rather than as an interactive network element. Further, the DAS booster is fine-tuned to the carrier's frequencies and specifications. DAS boosters and networks do not modulate or demodulate the carrier's RF signal – they simply provide transport for the signals received from and sent to the carrier's RF source and its mobile subscribers. In many DAS networks, the monitoring of the signal is done at the macro system level where composite RF power is watched to see if the system is radiating the expected power. When a neutral host provider is providing DAS transport for the carrier's signal, the neutral host provider builds, tests, monitors and maintains the DAS network and provides the carrier with access and control in accordance with the carrier's specifications which are provided during the design and construction phases of the DAS deployment.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter will be filed via ECFS with your office. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/
D. Zachary Champ
Government Affairs Counsel
PCIA—The Wireless Infrastructure Association
901 N. Washington St., Suite 600
Alexandria, VA 22314

Cc: Roger Noel
Joyce Jones
Erin Griffith
Thomas Derenge
Becky Schwartz
Ira Keltz